

Submitter:

Lauren Hobson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I'm writing to share my strong support for this bill. While I recognize that it may impact hotels and other lodgings, I would argue that the benefits far outweigh the minimal cost increase borne by guests. A big part of what makes our state such an extraordinary, special, and tourism-worthy place is the care we show for the outdoor places we love. Imposing a tax that will help sustainably fund the conservation of endangered species and prioritize wildlife in an increasingly hostile world to them would help cement our legacy as a state where wildlife doesn't just survive, but can thrive. I am excited by the prospect of having more conservation jobs in our state, supporting our Invasive Species Council, and improve wildlife connectivity. A tax like this helps the quality of life for all beings in our state, not just the people passing through -- many of whom are here to enjoy our landscapes and the wildlife that live in them! I'm a fifth-generation Oregonian and I care deeply for the animals I have been lucky to spend my life living alongside. I want my children to know the same wildlife wonder that I did in my own childhood: bees buzzing through our garden, bats swooping low at twilight, salamanders under wet leaves in the winter, bighorn sheep on hikes in the John Day River canyon, beavers in our backyard creek, mountain goats in the Elkhorn Mountains. I am concerned that if we don't start prioritizing conservation now, we'll lose the chance to save the species we can right now. Please, vote yes on this bill!